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BRITISH WEST INDIES.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

By Consul Henry D. Baker, Port of Spain, October 4.

In material prosperity the British colony of Trinidad and Tobago appears to have been benefited by the war. The high prices that have prevailed for the staple products, including cocoa, sugar, molasses, coconuts, together with the unusual activity in the production of oil, created the greatest trade prosperity in the history of the colony.

Both imports and exports during the calendar year 1916 showed considerable gains over 1915 and previous years. Imports for 1916, including goods transshipped chiefly to Venezuela, were $21,727,738, as against $21,528,891 for 1915, a gain of $198,847. The exports for 1916 were $20,872,509 as against $19,756,439 for 1915, an increase of $1,116,070. The total revenues collected by the collector of customs, including import duties, export duties and royalties on asphalt, warehouse rents and harbor dues, amounted to $2,350,820 for 1916 as against $2,165,888 for 1915, a gain of $184,832.

In the import duties there was an increase of $132,444 over 1915, attributable principally to an increase of trade and the amendments to the customs tariff in the latter part of 1915. The duty on cotton piece goods not exceeding in cost 6 cents per yard was increased from 5 to 10 per cent ad valorem; the duty on motor cars and other vehicles was altered from a specific to an ad valorem rate of 8 and 10 per cent (the lower rate applying to British goods); and machinery, which had hitherto been admitted free, was placed on the dutiable list at 2½ per cent ad valorem.

Change in Trade Caused by War.

The war has been instrumental in deflecting a considerable proportion of the import trade of Trinidad from the United Kingdom to the United States and Canada, and this condition is likely to continue so long as the war lasts. In 1916, of the total imports into Trinidad 26.9 per cent came from the United Kingdom, or 4.3 per cent less than the previous year, while the United States supplied 34.8 per cent, or 5.3 per cent more than in 1915. In articles classed as food, drink, and tobacco the United Kingdom in 1916 supplied 12.9 per cent, Canada 25.4, other British possessions 11.4, the United States 20.9, Venezuela 24.1, and other countries 5.3 per cent. In articles classed as raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured, the United Kingdom in 1916 supplied 13.5 per cent, Canada 6.6, other British possessions 2.3, the United States 70.1, Venezuela 4.7, and other countries 2.8 per cent. In articles wholly or mainly manufac-

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tured the United Kingdom in 1916 supplied 47.6 per cent, Canada 3.3, other British possessions 5.2, the United States 41.1, Venezuela 0.2, and other countries 2.6 per cent. In the imports of bullion and specie the United States supplied 61.8 per cent, the United Kingdom 28.2 per cent, and Venezuela 6.9 per cent.

The most important feature of the increased trade with the United States and Canada was the gain in flour imports of both quantity and value. In 1916 Trinidad bought from Canada 220,366 barrels of flour valued at $1,330,599, as against 203,759 barrels valued at $1,152,874 in 1915, and from the United States it took in 1916, 64,975 barrels of flour valued at $405,639, as against 43,792 barrels valued at $260,714 in 1915. From Canada there were also considerable gains in imports of cattle food, fish, condensed milk, paper, and dressed and undressed wood and timber, while from the United States the gains include a great variety of all sorts of merchandise.

Decreased Exports of Asphalt, Cocoa, and Copra.

In the chief articles of export from Trinidad in 1916 there were decreases as compared to 1915 in the qualities and values of asphalt, cocoa, and copra, but increases in coconuts, sugar, rum, molasses, and petroleum.

The quantity of asphalt shipped in 1916 was 6,901 tons less than the previous year and 99,672 tons below that of 1913. The United States is still the largest market for asphalt, taking 96,966 tons during the year, as against 7,923 tons exported to the United Kingdom. It is to be expected that during the continuation of the war this industry will be greatly hampered.

Exports of cocoa were 53,692,052 pounds valued at $7,957,122 in 1916, and 54,081,452 pounds in 1915 valued at $9,065,192, a decrease in weight of 389,400 pounds and in value $1,108,070. The values (f. o. b.) stated on the shipping bills average about 15 cents per pound, as against 17 cents in 1915.

The number of coconuts shipped for the year was 3,311,889 in excess of 1915, while there was a decrease of 646,883 pounds in the exports of copra. The total value of this product for the year, excluding coconut oil, was $692,924, an increase of $222,422 over 1915.

Gain in Sugar, Rum, and Petroleum Exports—Parcels Post Service.

In 1916 7,147 tons more of sugar were exported than in 1915, the exports for the year being 57,755 tons, valued at $6,305,213, or about $109 per ton. Last year the exports amounted to 50,608 tons, valued at $5,202,255, or about $102 per ton. The quantity of rum shipped was 361,407 gallons less, but $21,515 more in value than in the previous year, due to higher prices prevailing. The shipments of molasses were 33,247 gallons in excess of 1915.

In 1916, 33,654,901 gallons of petroleum were exported, compared with 14,113,855 gallons in 1915, an increase of 19,541,046 gallons.

The foreign parcels post is an important element in the trade of Trinidad, especially the import trade. It is quite a common practice to import in this way goods of a nonbulky nature, and also samples of goods which may be the basis of large further orders. The goods exported this way are chiefly gifts for Christmas, and amount to only about one-tenth the quantity of the packages imported by parcels post, and about one-twentieth the value of imported packages. The

parcels post is chiefly used with the United Kingdom and the United States. In 1916, 10,758 ordinary parcels and 1,936 insured parcels, having a total value of $149,434, were imported from the United Kingdom, and 9,073 ordinary parcels and 3,246 insured parcels, having a total value of $89,795, were imported from the United States.

In 1916 the local post office department issued 16,315 foreign money orders, amounting to $163,446, and also paid 5,395 money orders, to the value of $65,119, issued by foreign countries, over half of this value being received from the United States and the remainder from the United Kingdom and British possessions. The total number of letters and post cards both inland and foreign handled by the local postal authorities amounted to 3,729,888 in 1916. Postage stamps to the value of $57,022 were sold in Trinidad during 1916.

Greater Demand for American Goods.

The details of Trinidad's trade with foreign countries will not be available until the close of the war. In a general way, however, it may be stated that the difficulties connected with obtaining articles ordinarily purchased in the United Kingdom and also on the Continent of Europe put Trinidad in greater dependence upon the United States and Canada, and to some extent this diversion of trade may remain changed even after the war. Local merchants in Trinidad who before the war purchased a comparatively small proportion of their goods in the United States are now paying great attention to articles of American manufacture to be substituted for those of British manufacture. Many American lines of goods which have been introduced here have overcome all previous prejudice and proving popular from the standpoint of both price and quality, and are sure to meet with a good sale even with the resumption of normal conditions after the war. The local shops appear to have become very much Americanized during the last year or so as regards the goods they offer for sale.

At present the need of relying upon the United States and Canada for indispensable food products has caused the Trinidad Government to seriously consider the restriction of imports other than necessary food products. Trinidad itself can not raise all the food required for local consumption, and for flour especially it is depending upon the United States and Canada. The local government has been making every effort to promote the planting of gardens for the home raising of provisions so as to decrease the need of importing foodstuffs from abroad.

American trade in Trinidad during the present abnormal times is hardly in need of any special promotion as the local merchants are themselves anxious to secure necessary goods in America in view of the difficulties and risks in obtaining them from the United Kingdom. This island being very prosperous and the purchasing power of the people good there is a disposition to import from the United States up to the limit of shipping space available, and also in many cases up to the limit of American manufacturers' ability to take care of orders.

Some Criticism of American Methods.

There is great need of care on the part of American manufacturers to properly promote their trade reputation during this period when

trade is offered with little or no effort on their part. Care should be exercised to maintain the quality of goods as compared with British goods, and to be reasonable with credit arrangements with local firms which can show good bank references. There has been considerable dissatisfaction locally over the refusal of American firms to ship goods unless cash is prepaid in New York before shipment. Some local firms which have made such payments in advance have had to wait months before receiving the goods, owing to the delays in shipping, and in several instances which have come to my attention have not had the goods in time to meet the seasonable demands of trade, so that considerable loss has resulted.

Local firms claim that it is unfair, especially during the present period when prompt shipments can not be relied upon, to expect them to pay cash before they actually receive the goods. The company which supplies electric light and operates the tramways of Port-of-Spain, and whose credit could easily be ascertained, has complained to this office of having to pay cash in advance in New York for goods of uncertain delivery, instead of the seller of the goods drawing on them sight draft with shipping documents.

Much annoyance is occasioned by short-paid letters. Most of the letters received at this consulate from American firms are short of sufficient postage, and the same probably holds true of letters sent to local concerns by American firms, who do not seem to understand that a letter to Trinidad requires a 5-cent stamp.

Importance of Trinidad Market.

In proportion to its size and population, Trinidad is undoubtedly by far the richest and most prosperous of the British West Indian Islands, and is an important market for imported goods, not only for local consumption, but for reexport or in transit to neighboring islands, the near-by Venezuelan coast towns, and also the valley of the Orinoco River, which is much easier to reach from Trinidad than from La Guaira, the chief port of Venezuela. There is an important trade between Trinidad and Ciudad Bolivar, the chief town on the Orinoco River and the center of the Llanos cattle districts of Venezuela, by a fortnightly steamer service.

The total population of Trinidad on December 31, 1916, was estimated to be 364,585, which showed an increase of 7,291 as compared to 1915. Of this population, the East Indian element is estimated to be 124,977. The population of Port of Spain, the capital and chief town of Trinidad, is estimated to be 64,863, and of San Fernando, second town in size, 9,401. At the small village of Brighton, adjacent to the famous asphalt lake, there is a consular agency of the United States, the chief importance of which is in connection with the asphalt exports to the United States, and the American shipping which arrives there to take the asphalt. It is not, however, a center of import trade. The supplies for the employees connected with the production of asphalt at Brighton are purchased at Port of Spain, and practically all of the merchantile business of Trinidad and also the smaller adjacent island of Tobago is conducted from Port of Spain, the capital.

Shipping of the Colony—Oil Supplies.

Trinidad is very important as a point of call for steamers on the trade routes between North and South America, and between Europe

and South America. It is only about five days steaming distance to the Panama Canal, allowing time for several stops on the way. The increasing use of fuel oil for steaming purposes, and the abundance of such oil in Trinidad, creates a special inducement for oil-using ships to visit this colony. In 1916 there were 5,861,598 gallons of petroleum supplied for bunker use to 53 ships, in addition to the export of 34,000,000 gallons of petroleum and its products. There were 204 vessels during 1916 taking bunker coal amounting to 41,047 tons. The relatively high price of coal as compared with petroleum has led to the substitution of oil as fuel for the local steamers in the Gulf of Paria. The first Gulf steamer that made this change showed a saving of about $1,000 in its fuel bill within three months.

In 1916 1,593 merchant vessels arrived in this colony, of which 1,496 came to Port of Spain, 40 to Brighton, 54 to San Fernando, and 3 to Tobago. The steamers arriving numbered 543 with a net tonnage of 1,046,421, and the sailing vessels numbered 1,050 with a net tonnage of 41,325. The number, tonnage, and nationality of vessels arriving in 1916 are shown in the following table:

Nationality.	Number of vessels.	Net tonnage.	Nationality.	Number of vessels.	Net tonnage.
STEAMERS.			SAILING VESSELS.		
British	313	750,837	British	348	13,475
American	63	86,768	American	23	13,282
Brazilian	4	8,525	Dutch	5	449
Cuban	3	4,104	French	19	1,608
Danish	3	1,630	Panaman	1	192
Dutch	32	40,145	Russian	1	338
French	35	69,302	Spanish	1	172
Italian	9	35,486	Venezuelan	652	11,809
Norwegian	20	36,648			
Swedish	2	3,674	Total	1,050	41,325
Venezuelan	59	9,302			
			Grand total	1,593	1,087,746
Total	543	1,046,421			

The number of passengers arriving in 1916 was 18,380, which included 4,973 first and second class, 11,493 steerage and deck, and 1,914 East Indian immigrants. There were 8,447 transit passengers.

Development of Petroleum Industry.

A great present and potential source of wealth in Trinidad is the petroleum which underlies a large part of the southern end of the island. During 1916 the total of amount of petroleum drilling in Trinidad amounted to 58,390 feet, of which 27,555 feet was on private lands and 30,835 feet on Crown lands. Out of 47 wells drilled during the year, oil was struck in 34. The total number of wells drilled in the colony up to December 31, 1916, was 325. The quantity of oil extracted was 32,475,695 gallons. Altogether 10 companies were engaged in the production of oil. One of these companies has completed a pipe line and jetty with storage tanks, so that ships can come alongside to receive oil cargoes. Another company is now refining petrol, kerosene, lubricating and fuel oils, and has installed a can-making plant, so that the product can be put up in convenient packages. It has also completed a storage installation near the sea, connected by a submarine pipe line to a loading berth about 1 mile out to sea, and is also now engaged in laying a pipe line from its oil fields at Tabaquite to storage tanks at Claxton's

Bay, a distance of approximately 17 miles. The Trinidad Oil & Transport Co. has enlarged its refinery for petrol, kerosene, and fuel oils, and has also laid several important 6-inch pipe lines. Another oil company has also erected a small refinery.

Oil refineries are now in operation at Brighton, Point Fortin, Tabaquite, and Barrackpore, and a large topping plant is approaching completion at Pointe a Pierre. Local petrol of excellent quality is being regularly sold in the island, almost entirely replacing the imported product, while there is a fair amount of lamp oil and lubricants produced. Notwithstanding the comparatively confined area in which the oil indications occur, a remarkable diversity of grades of oil have been found. The densest asphaltic type oils in the pitch lake area somewhat resemble certain Mexican and Californian oils that have limited commercial uses on account of high viscosity and low contents of distillates suitable for internal combustion engines or illuminants. They produce excellent fluxes for asphalt and produce good road oils. The less dark-dense asphaltic oils of the Guapo district yield a fair percentage of distillates that can be refined into saleable products, while the residue constitutes an excellent fuel oil fulfilling ordinary commercial and naval requirements. On anticlines farther north are found a wide range of light-density and light-colored crude oils that yield high-grade distillates. Some of these oils are especially rich in lubricants, the absence or scarcity of solid paraffin giving them a very low set point, saving thereby much expense in plant for the extraction of paraffins.

The Asphalt Industry.

The asphalt lake in Trinidad is under lease to the New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. (Ltd.), which employs in digging, refining, barreling, conveying, etc., about 450 persons. This company is owned by the General Asphalt Co. of Philadelphia, which in addition to the Trinidad Asphalt Lake is working a similar asphalt lake the other side of the Gulf of Paria in Venezuela.

Though leasing the asphalt lake, the Trinidad Government derives considerable revenues, receiving in 1916 $155,330 in export duties and $52,031 in royalties on asphalt. The company in addition to working the asphalt lake has some important oil-producing properties adjacent to the lake, and the oil produced, together with the asphalt, is exported to the United States.

The drilling operations in the oil fields of Trinidad have caused the employment of a number of American expert rotary drillers. Also at the asphalt lake the management of operations is under control of Americans, who live in substantial, mosquito-proof houses erected by the company. With the exception of oil and asphalt, no other minerals are at present being mined in Trinidad, although there are deposits of coal and also manjak, which may possibly in the future be successfully mined.

Agricultural Conditions—Sugar Crop.

Although oil and asphalt have been important factors in the prosperity of Trinidad, and have made this island a greater land of promise than any of the other British West Indian islands, nevertheless the mainstay of the prosperity of Trinidad, and the greatest source of its wealth, is to be found in the cultivation of the

land for sugar, cocoa, coconuts, and copra as the most important agricultural products, and rubber, lime, and coffee in a lesser degree. The soil of Trinidad is remarkably fertile, and the rainfall very good, and as the island is also favored with a good stable government, and also reasonably cheap labor, there is much inducement to extension of investments in plantations, and the opening up of much good Crown land not yet brought under cultivation. This also applies to the smaller island of Tobago, which is under the same government as Trinidad.

The sugar crop of Trinidad and Tobago for 1916 was 64,231 tons, of which 35,653 tons were made from canes grown by the estates and 28,578 tons from canes grown by cane farmers. The magnitude of the cane-farming industry is well shown in the annual return compiled by the secretary of the Agricultural Society, which shows that 363,775 tons of cane were purchased by the estates, at a cost of $1,008,665, from a total of 19,266 farmers; 11,014 East Indians and 8,212 West Indians. All these figures are the highest recorded for the 19 years during which the returns have been made. The health of the canes was generally good, the weather condition favorable; in particular there was a reduction in attacks of the insect pest known as the froghopper which in 1912 and 1913 did so much damage to the sugar crop.

Government Assistance in Local Production—Coconuts and Copra.

The export of cocoa produced in the colony in 1916 was 53,692,052 pounds, of the value of $7,959,122. A complete recovery has apparently been made from the results of the succession of dry years 1911, 1912, and 1913. Diseases and pests were not very serious, although as usual there were losses due to black pod and in some localities thrips—a minute sucking insect. Both can be controlled with remunerative results by spraying with Bordeaux mixture and nicotine sulphate. Pioneer experimental work in this direction, carried out by the board of agriculture, is attracting the increased attention of the planters.

The Department of Agriculture has continued to give close attention to the question of the varying productiveness of individual trees with a view to raising heavier bearing trees, both by seed selection and by propagation by budding. Some 10,000 trees at the Government Cocoa Estate have their crop separately recorded and a field experiment on a large scale—about 6 acres—to test thoroughly the comparative value of selected seedlings, grafted and budded plants from known parents, started in 1915, is making satisfactory progress. Tobago is making rapid progress in cocoa production.

The recent period of dry years caused a check to coconuts and copra products also, but recovery has been made and the crops for 1916 were satisfactory. There is a large extension of the area under coconuts, both in Trinidad and Tobago, as a result of the high prices which have prevailed of recent years.

Rubber Cultivation—Limes—Coffee.

There is comparatively little rubber cultivation in Trinidad, nevertheless one estate has been tapping para rubber since 1914 on a fairly large scale. The results published in the Bulletin of

the Department of Agriculture show a profit of about $61 per acre. More interest is being shown in para rubber and the published results of some five years' experiments of the Department of Agriculture, indicating that the cost of tapping can be lowered by reducing the number of tappings and still getting about the same yield, are likely to give an additional impetus, as in the past the cost of tapping has been regarded as a serious obstacle. The trees yield well in Trinidad. Central American or Castilloa rubber, formerly most in favor, has fallen in estimation owing to its smaller yields.

Although there is not a large export crop in limes at present, interest in their cultivation is rapidly increasing. There are now three factories at work in the colony making concentrated lime juice. The cultivations are very free from the scale insects which are so serious to limes in some drier localities.

The area under coffee is also being extended, but at present there is not enough grown for home consumption. The variety most in favor for planting now is the Kongo coffee, *Coffea robusta*. Another Kongo coffee, *C. excelsa*, has recently been brought to notice by the Department of Agriculture as thriving well in drier localities.

Increased Output of Foodstuffs.

Owing to war conditions, the question of food supply has assumed greatly increased importance. By means of public meetings, publications, renting of Crown and private lands at nominal rental or even free, etc., the people have been encouraged to grow foodstuffs for their own requirements. These efforts and the increase in cost of living have produced marked results. In particular Tobago has increased its exports to Trinidad of ground provisions, such as yams, sweet potatoes, etc., from $15,192 in 1913–14 to $49,931 in 1916. A special ground-provisions committee has been appointed by the governor to encourage the growth and distribution of such foodstuffs.

Timber Resources of Colony.

Trinidad and Tobago have valuable forest resources, and the importance of different hardwoods for export purposes is just beginning to be appreciated. The Trinidad cedar wood, largely used in making cigar boxes, is of excellent quality. The cedar logs are largely used by the local petroleum companies. The high price of imported lumber on account of the war has tended greatly to increase the local use of native timber. The forests of Trinidad are worthy of considerable attention also in connection with dye woods. East Indian teak wood, introduced from Burma in 1913, is doing well, and there are now over 12,000 of these trees in Trinidad, many over 30 feet high, with a girth ranging up to 24 inches at 5 feet from the ground.

Public Improvements.

Many projected public improvements in Trinidad and Tobago have been postponed until the end of the war. However, the Government Railway Department increased expenditures in 1916 by about $30,000, and also the various public bodies having charge of road and bridge construction were fairly liberal in their expenditures. Trinidad has a most excellent system of roads which are kept in good condition and have afforded a great stimulus to motor-car traffic. There are about 750 motor cars in the island and the

number is constantly being increased. The Trinidad Government Railway includes 122⅜ miles of single line of the standard 4-foot 8½-inch gauge, of which 114½ miles are worked by the Government and 8½ miles are leased to sugar companies. The equipment of this railway is in need of improvement, and a probable development of the future may be the substitution of oil-burning locomotives for those now using coal for fuel.

Development of Agriculture in Tobago.

The island of Tobago, just north of Trinidad, is showing a very good development in extension of cocoa and coconut plantations. In 1916 1,634,465 pounds of cocoa were produced, as against 1,465,899 pounds in 1915. The quantity of coconuts exported in 1916 was 645,285 pounds, as against 820,275 pounds in 1915; but the quantity of copra exported was nearly doubled, being 633,975 pounds, as against 382,460 pounds in 1915. The island also has been increasing extensively its production of ground provisions, cattle, poultry, etc., which find a ready market in Trinidad. The population of Tobago is about 21,000. The chief town is Scarborough, with about 4,000 population. About two-thirds of the area of Tobago is still uncultivated, being covered with virgin forests of excellent hardwood timber. The valleys contain a grass very suitable for cattle grazing.

Declared Exports to the United States.

As is shown by the following table, the total value of exports to the United States invoiced from all of Trinidad for 1916 was $7,711,566, as compared with $8,367,942 in 1915. There were no exports to the island possessions of the United States during either year.

Articles.	1915	1916	Articles.	1915	1916
FROM PORT-OF-SPAIN.			Tonca beans	$190,412	$122,628
Balata	$1,947	$67	All other articles	20,853	2,442
Bark (mangrove)	17,529	1,780	Total	6,840,971	6,157,211
Bitters	42,707	41,992			
Bones	1,531	.....	FROM BRIGHTON.		
Cocoa:			Asphalt:		
Trinidad	5,263,100	4,486,695	Crude, lake	151,312	158,406
Venezuelan	681,339	461,976	Dried, refined	389,207	379,967
Coconuts:			Land asphalt	8,750	.....
Trinidad	337,194	438,847	Petroleum oils:		
Venezuelan	23,792	25,371	Crude petroleum	245,794	309,386
Copra	119,744	202,155	Distillate oil	.....	1,537
Divi divi	5,158	20,770			
Dracacua	2,042	729	Total	795,063	849,296
Fiber, coconut	4,428	7,849			
Gold	10,615	252,185	FROM GRENADA.		
Hides:					
Trinidad	68,264	52,668	Cocoa	673,606	580,352
Venezuelan	35,208	24,598	Mace	11,160	28,092
Lime juice	5,223	4,925	Nutmegs	46,811	95,313
Logwood	.....	1,178	All other articles	231	1,302
Machinery	.....	3,239			
Manjak	3,204	4,311	Total	731,808	705,059
Molasses	2,029	.....			
Nutmegs	1,200	30	Grand total	8,367,942	7,711,566
Pearls	3,452	776			

BAHAMAS.

By Consul William F. Doty, Nassau, November 21.

The total foreign trade of the Bahama Islands for the calendar year 1916 amounted to $3,940,185, an increase of $980,015 over that of the previous year. The exports for 1916 were $1,622,808, as compared

with $1,187,456 in 1915, and the imports for 1916 were $2,317,377 and $1,772,714 for 1915.

Classification of Trade by Countries.

The following table shows the value of the imports from and the exports to the principal countries trading with the Bahamas during 1915 and 1916:

Countries.	Imports from.		Exports to.	
	1915	1916	1915	1916
United States	$1,380,323	$1,900,547	$707,666	$1,061,683
Great Britain	285,753	267,490	264,261	204,603
Canada	18,117	10,390	10,873	26,897
Other British possessions	66,765	91,803	2,361	4,610
Cuba			110,994	142,535
France			44,609	99,633
Netherlands			33,585	68,575
All other countries	21,756	47,147	13,107	14,272
Total	1,772,714	2,317,377	1,187,456	1,622,808

The imports from the United Kingdom have steadily fallen off during the war, so that in 1916 they were about one-ninth of all imports. The enhanced price owing to the greater cost of raw materials in the United Kingdom was an important factor in the decrease of British imports.

With reference to Canada's share, the actual amount originating in that country is actually larger than shown, as certain items included in the figures given for the United States were of Canadian origin. From Jamaica, rum and brown sugar are imported occasionally in schooners. Six thousand pounds in specie were imported from Cuba in 1916. A small quantity of gin and tobacco came from Holland, which were practically the only imports from continental Europe.

Principal Articles Imported.

The value of the principal articles imported into the Bahamas in 1915 and 1916 is shown in the following table:

Articles.	1915	1916	Articles.	1915	1916
Alcohol:			Cotton, linen, and woolen goods	$319,665	$323,054
Proof	$512	$327	Dairy and chicken feed	32,097	36,863
Denatured	171	415	Drugs and druggists' sundries	13,780	24,439
Ale, porter, and stout	9,756	8,024	Dynamite	390	976
Apples	1,561	1,595	Earthenware and glassware	40,316	10,390
Beans and peas	6,415	6,244	Electrical apparatus and appliances	13,317	9,146
Bicycles	3,688	3,415	Fertilizers	7,195	5,956
Biscuits, common	4,010	4,185	Fish:		
Books and pamphlets, printed	3,463	3,171	Dried or salted	2,585	2,951
Boots and shoes	63,243	72,477	Fresh	366	859
Brandy, proof	376	1,829	Flour, rye or wheat	212,676	299,548
Butter	26,776	33,561	Foodstuffs	89,267	81,531
Candles:			Furniture	14,542	25,146
Other than tallow	585	624	Gasoline	8,610	12,000
Tallow	659	683	Gin	7,317	11,902
Cattle	341	1,601	Gunpowder	146	190
Cement	2,219	3,951	Hardware and tinware	133,389	165,247
Cheese	7,780	8,707	Hats and caps		18,171
Cigars	2,463	3,946	Hay	4,634	8,195
Coal	23,707	21,195	Hulls and materials of wrecked vessels	7,000	1,429
Coffee:			Ice	4,927	7,683
Raw	8,673	8,517	Insecticide	195	287
Roasted or prepared	3,268	3,888	Lard	42,683	65,804
Coin		43,414	Lumber	24,439	28,292
Confectionery		11,658	Matches		7,863
Corn, whole or cracked	5,488	7,132			
Cornmeal and hominy	73,146	105,731			

Articles.	1915	1916	Articles.	1915	1916
Machetes	$927	$1,376	Printer's type and material	$610	$1,317
Machinery	14,439	38,311	Railroad material	.....	11,415
Meats:			Rice	46,692	54,087
Cured, dried, or salted	59,097	73,706	Rope and canvas	44,609	43,561
Fresh	14,829	31,409	Rum:		
Metal ceiling, roofing, and siding	536	424	In bottles	244	420
Milk	23,624	32,606	In wood	12,585	18,551
Motor boats	.....	11,607	Shingles, cypress:		
Motor cars	14,439	13,219	4-inch	29	268
Motorcycles	98	59	5-inch	10,683	12,585
Molasses and cane sirup	824	883	6-inch	.....	88
Moving-picture films	6,390	9,732	Soap, common washing	17,439	16,058
Musical instruments	4,000	5,585	Sponge	659	1,537
Nails, iron	3,366	5,732	Starch	.....	3,917
Oakum	1,073	1,341	Stationery and toys	4,615	12,166
Oil:			Sugar:		
Kerosene	17,439	19,561	Other than white	57,385	64,936
Lard, olive, and sperm	1,005	839	White	32,366	40,273
All other	9,751	11,785	Surgical appliances and instruments	951	829
Oleomargarine	5,780	7,097	Tea	3,756	5,878
Packages for the exportation of native produce	19,756	27,341	Tobacco:		
Paints	20,121	26,317	Unmanufactured	8,527	10,341
Paper bags, boxes, and wrapping paper	7,902	16,219	Manufactured	15,366	15,536
Photographic materials	1,659	3,537	Fine cut and cigarettes	12,293	13,780
Photographic supplies, submarine	9,020	.....	Trunks and valises	.....	1,805
Plants, roots, seeds, and bulbs	1,244	1,151	Turpentine	463	737
Potatoes and onions	7,088	12,278	Typewriters	829	805
Power presses	.....	317	Whisky	10,732	8,030
			Wines	8,780	13,678
			Wire fencing	951	834
			Yellow metal, in sheets	1,073	683

Imports from United States.

The imports from the United States in 1915 comprised 80 per cent of all Bahaman imports, while in 1916 they were 82 per cent of the total. Substantial gains are noted in many of the items imported. The following table shows the principal imports from the United States in 1916:

Articles.	Value.	Articles.	Value.
Ale, porter, and stout	$3 756	Machetes	$1 098
Apples	1 595	Machinery	38,341
Beans and peas	6 244	Meats:	
Bicycles	3 122	Cured, dried or salted	73 706
Biscuits, common	4 098	Meats, poultry, and game, fresh	30,609
Books and pamphlets	1 439	Metal ceiling, roofing, and siding	424
Boots and shoes	62,682	Milk	23 049
Butter	33,561	Motorboats	11 634
Cement	3 951	Motor cars	13 219
Cheese	8,585	Motion-picture films	9 732
Coal	21,195	Musical instruments	5 268
Coffee:		Nails, iron	5,732
Raw	5,049	Oil: Kerosene	19,560
Roasted	3 683	Oleomargarine	7,000
Coin	10 000	Packages for exportation of native products	27,341
Confectionery	10 488	Paints	22,048
Corn, whole or cracked	5,171	Paper bags, boxes, and wrapping paper	16 073
Cornmeal and hominy	11 731	Photographic material	3,537
Cotton, linen, and woolen goods	291 314	Potatoes and onions	12,219
Dairy and chicken feed	36 805	Printers' material	1,024
Drugs and druggists' sundries	22,560	Railroad material	11,415
Earthenware and glassware	9 268	Rice	36,829
Electrical apparatus and appliances	9,097	Rope, canvas, marline, spun yarn, seine twine	11,415
Fertilizers	5,956	Shingles, cypress	12,853
Fish:		Soap, common washing	11,195
Dried and salted	2,951	Stationery and toys	9,166
Fresh	859	Sugar:	
Flour, rye, wheat	298 705	Other than white	2,390
Foodstuffs	66 009	White	39,999
Furniture	25,146	Tobacco:	
Gasoline	12 000	Unmanufactured	9,854
Hardware and tinware	139,120	Manufactured	15,536
Hats and caps	13,854	Fine cut and cigarettes	2,219
Hay	8,195	Trunks and valises	1,805
Ice	7,683	Wines	4,293
Lard	65 804	Wire, fencing	707
Lumber	28,292		
Matches	7,683		

A change in the classification under which certain items are listed makes it difficult to compare the trade for 1916 with the preceding year, but generally it may be said that in groceries, cotton, linen and woolen goods, hardware, and tinware there has been a steady increase in imports from the United States to the Bahama Islands. However, enhanced prices have to be taken into consideration.

Increased Imports of American Flour, Rice, and Cornmeal.

American flour in 1914 was imported to the amount of 44,749 barrels; in 1915 of 36,190 barrels; and in 1916 of 46,252 barrels. The gain in value in 1916 as compared with 1914 was $85,617, and $87,511 as compared with 1915. Canadian flour amounted to 1,400 barrels in 1914, 200 barrels in 1915, and only 76 barrels in 1916. However, occasionally Canadian flour in slightly larger quantities reaches the Bahamas without its Canadian origin being particularly designated upon entry.

Rice, until within the last two or three years, usually was imported from Rangoon via London, as the price and quality were very satisfactory, at a time when American whole-head rice was at a relatively much higher price, while broken-head American rice was of quality inferior to that of whole-head Rangoon. In 1914 American rice to the quantity of 93,000 pounds was brought into the Bahamas, increasing in 1915 to 240,700 pounds, and in 1916 to 857,800 pounds. The gain in value in 1916 over 1915 was $36,551, and $33,468 compared with 1914.

There is a fairly steady demand for American cornmeal and hominy, but to a certain extent naturally the crops in the out islands of the Bahamas are important factors. The raising of corn is an important agricultural pursuit in these islands, despite the ravages of raccoons and other difficulties. Cornmeal and hominy figure greatly in the food of the native population, while flour is especially demanded by spongers. Cornmeal and hominy importations in 1914 amounted to 19,105 barrels, in 1915 to 15,415 barrels, and in 1916 to 19,595 barrels. The gain in the value of these imports in 1916 as compared with 1914 was $14,400, and $32,487 as compared with 1915.

Receipts of Lard from United States—Cutlery and Hardware.

In 1914, 512,180 pounds of American lard were imported into the Bahamas, 506,990 pounds in 1915, and 525,690 pounds in 1916. The gain in value was $23,122 in 1916 over the previous year, and $21,668 over 1914.

Before the war much cutlery and hardware in general was imported from England, but during the past two or three years hardware and tinware of American origin have been brought in. In 1914 the imports of such articles of British origin were valued at $26,173, in 1915 at $19,759, and in 1916 at $16,049. Imports in this line from the United States were valued at $140,000 in 1916. American machinery showed a gain of $24,439 over 1916, and $23,805 as compared with 1914.

Trade in American Cotton and Woolen Goods.

The price of English cotton goods, according to one of the leading Nassau importers, continued, even through 1916, to be about 10 per cent less than the American article of the same grade, while all of the very cheapest of the articles came from the United States for dis-

tribution among the poorer classes who occupy the out islands of the Bahamas. In 1916 the value of imports of American cotton, linen, and woolen goods reached the satisfactory figure of $291,314, compared with $130,950 from England. In 1914 the American articles of this variety totaled only $146,174.

The Export Trade.

The decrease in exports to the United Kingdom in 1916, as compared with those of 1915, was due to the smaller shipments of sponges, on account of prohibitive freight rates.

The principal exports to the United Kingdom were: Conch shells, 4,070 pounds, worth $517; cotton, 9,288 pounds, $898; sponges, 371,307 pounds, $192,979; and tortoise shells, 1,902 pounds, valued at $6,907.

The exports to the United States in 1916 totaled $1,061,663, nearly 66 per cent of all exports, an increase of $353,996, or about 6 per cent, over the previous year's figures. Principal items were: Barks, worth $8,580; grapefruit, $5,244; pineapples, preserved, $41,365; sisal, 8,592,940 pounds, $564,516; sponges, 363,983 pounds, $277,661; and tomatoes, $47,487 bushels, $27,512.

The value of the principal articles exported to all countries from the Bahamas during 1915 and 1916 is shown in the following table:

Articles.	1915		1916	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Bahama hemp (sisal)....pounds..	7,736,665	$354,148	8,369,245	$558,360
Bahama hemp waste....do....	232,926	3,893	233,695	6,156
Bark:				
Cascarilla and siftings....do....	63,943	6,210	52,950	5,176
Other and siftings....do....	48,857	2,785	39,565	3,883
Cotton....do....	20,485	2,419	9,288	898
Curios, marine	.....	.....	.....	2,439
Fish, dried	.....	2,507	.....	3,468
Fruit and vegetables:				
Grapefruit....number..	521,020	5,898	554,715	7,024
Oranges....do....	49,110	341	20,280	107
Peas....bushels..	214	639	120	327
Peppers....do....	618	322	942	493
Pineapples—				
Raw....dozens..	1,186	522	710	293
Preserved....cases..	21,756	27,073	38,807	53,575
Tomatoes....bushels..	27,063	16,419	47,487	27,512
Hides and skins....number..	7,378	2,151	5,324	2,839
Honey....gallons..	2,592	663	1,200	561
Lumber....feet..	6,652,085	112,311	7,515,190	143,940
Metal, old....pounds..	10,545	639	72,297	5,556
Salt....bushels..	18,281	800	85,202	2,790
Shells, conch:				
Whole....number..	64,557	1,639	111,687	5,293
Pieces and lips....do....	55,772	1,351	45,227	1,224
Shell, tortoise....pounds..	327	1,746	1,927	6,980
Sponges:				
Glove....pounds..	160	98	880	387
Grass....do....	611,231	153,398	456,936	134,921
Hardhead....do....	34,338	19,522	39,274	14,858
Reef....do....	43,195	36,331	44,603	35,395
Velvet....do....	321,723	273,241	323,719	306,543
Wool....do....	80,355	98,560	115,390	145,281
Yellow....do....	23,624	12,517	29,437	14,014
Refuse and clippings....do....	412,796	13,785	307,383	14,756
Wood:				
Braziletto....tons..	5	59	50	829
Lignum-vitæ....do....	386	5,161	327	4,366
Logwood....do....	.....	.....	1,828	78,828

The Export Trade in Sponges.

The colonial secretary at Nassau noted in a review that wool and velvet sponges showed a satisfactory increase in value as well as in

quantity, while grass sponges suffered from high Atlantic freight rates from New York. The total export of sponges was 1,317,622 pounds, valued at $666,095.

There was a gain of $68,292 in 1916 in the export of sponges, compared with that of 1913, which had been the record year. Military operations in the Mediterranean were responsible to a large extent for the increased demand for the Bahaman sponge. It was impossible completely to fill orders at Nassau for the finer grades of sponge, as they were not available in sufficient quantities.

It is noteworthy that both France and the Netherlands more than doubled their takings of Bahaman sponge in 1916. The shipments to France in 1915 were 66,882 pounds, valued at $44,609, as compared with 123,041 pounds, worth $98,628 in 1916, and to the Netherlands sales amounting to 57,464 pounds, worth $33,585, were made in 1915, as compared with 117,391 pounds, valued at $71,282, in 1916.

Sisal Shipped to United States.

The output of sisal, all of which went to the United States, was valued in 1916 at $564,516 (including waste, $6,156), compared with $354,148 (including $3,893, waste) in 1915. Prices were very satisfactory in 1916, reaching a maximum of 16 cents in New York for machine-cleaned and 12 cents for hand-cleaned. It has been estimated that machine-cleaned sisal was landed at New York at a total cost of 3 cents per pound. The colonial secretary of the Bahamas is strongly urging the adoption under Government regulation of a system of grading somewhat similar to that now in force in the Philippine Islands. The Bahaman hand-cleaned sisal is frequently improperly assorted as to length and quality and is often immature and contains too much refuse and too many knots. This is caused by cleaning the hemp in salt or brackish water. There appears to be a strong likelihood of legislative enactment in the near future to control the export of sisal hemp from the Bahamas. At present it is the leading industry and is likely to continue so, particularly while conditions remain unsettled in Mexico.

Exports of Tomatoes, Shells, and Lumber.

There was a very satisfactory yield of tomatoes, of which 47,487 bushels were exported to the United States, valued at $27,512 in 1916, while in 1915 the shipments consisted of 27,063 bushels, worth $16,419. Prices at New York reached a maximum of $4.50 a crate, about the highest price yet paid for Bahaman tomatoes. The quality of the carefully selected tomato is excellent.

In 1916, 111,687 conch shells, with a value of $5,293, shows a fair increase over the shipments of the previous year. There was a slight decrease in the export of lips of conch shells owing to high Atlantic freights. The number shipped decreased from 55,772 in 1915 to 45,227 in 1916.

An important export to the United States in 1916 was 1,828 tons of logwood, valued at $78,828. The demand for this article proved a great boon to the Bahama Islands, and even remote thickets were exploited for logwood at a splendid profit, as prices reached a maximum of $50 a ton in a few instances, delivered at New York.

Lumber shipments during 1916 exceeded those of 1915 by 863,105

feet, reaching the maximum of 7,515,190 feet, the largest quantity ever exported from the Bahamas in one year. This lumber consisted of Bahaman yellow pine. The output of the Bahamas Timber Co. (Ltd.) mill at Abaco was exported to Cuba, where there was a ready sale.

Exports of Pineapples Increase.

Shipments of tinned pineapple in 1916 were very gratifying, being almost double those of the previous year. This export, nearly all of which went to the United States, amounted to 38,807 cases during 1916, with a value of $53,575, compared with 21,756 cases, worth $27,073, in 1915. The flavor of the Bahaman pineapple is considered to be very choice.

Tinned pineapples were packed and exported in the following quantities and values during the last five years: In 1912, 27,536 cases, valued at $25,244; 1913, 31,192 cases, $30,283; 1914, 33,070 cases, $36,746; 1915, 21,756 cases, $27,073; and 1916, 38,807 cases, $53,575.

Salt Production and Manufacturing.

The Bahamas Government is very anxious to interest capital to reopen salt raking in the old pans on the island of Inagua, which under the management of an American company some years ago resulted in an output of 3,000,000 bushels of salt annually with a resulting large royalty to the Government. Very little salt raking has been done in recent years at Inagua, but there usually is a small stock available at reasonable prices. Salt raking is carried on also at Rum Cay, Long Cay, Long Island, Ragged Island, and Exuma.

Mr. Harold E. M. Johnson, a prominent merchant, has established an ice plant of 12 tons' capacity at Nassau. The machinery came from the United States. This was in view of the closing of the ice plant of the Bahamas Timber Co. (Ltd.) at Wilson City, Abaco, which previously supplied Nassau with ice. The requirements of the community of Nassau are only 30 tons of ice a week, so that the plant runs only a few days about every two weeks.

Declared Exports to the United States.

The following table gives the quantities and values of the principal articles exported from the Bahamas to the United States during 1915 and 1916, according to invoices certified at the American consulate at Nassau:

Articles.	1915		1916	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Bark and wood....pounds..	511,471	$10,284	4,386,011	$93,088
Fruit, citrus....boxes..	3,946	7,671	.....	2,643
Hides and skins....number..	4,692	1,316	312	1,56
Metal, old....pounds..	47,400	281	50,207	4,645
Paintings....number..	45	4,794	44	2,986
Pineapple, canned....cases..	18,720	33,498	24,702	52,345
Shells, conch....number..	79,682	6,596	a 999	9,182
Sisal....pounds..	4,983,600	338,869	6,822,503	400,183
Sponges....do....	507,500	264,054	377,778	277,242
Vegetables....bushels..	25,494	19,658	.....	36,621

a Barrels.

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The Trade of Turks and Caicos Islands.

The value of the imports into the Turks and Caicos Islands during the calendar year 1916 was $141,506, compared with $134,730 for 1915 and an average of $135,335 for the previous five years. At present no statistics are available as to the kinds of articles, the values thereof, and the countries from which they originated.

The exports were $135,643, a noticeable falling off as compared with $148,716 the previous year, but above the average of $127,087 for the previous five years. The value of the exports was as follows:

Articles.	1915	1916	Articles.	1915	1916
Conchs	$5,937	$8,366	Shells	$244	$2,205
Fish:			Sisal	18,541	16,005
Salted and dried	3,693	824	Sponges	5,507	4,937
Canned	2,054	2,288	Turtles	83	98
Salt:					
Coarse	75,209	66,902			
Fishery	35,361	31,161			

Condition of the Industries of Turks and Caicos Islands.

The British commissioner stationed at the Turks and Caicos Islands, referring to the salt industry, states that in 1916 about three-fourths of the salt was exported to the United States and one-fourth to Nova Scotia. He comments on the competition with the salt sent to the United States from the Dutch Islands of Bonaire and St. Martins and remarks that the United States in the year 1881 imported 39 per cent of the salt required, whereas in 1914 domestic salt supplied the industries to the extent of 98 per cent. The lack of shipping facilities during 1916 to a certain extent interfered with the larger export of this product.

More than 1,750,000 dried conchs were shipped to the Island of Haiti during 1916, an increase of about 40 per cent as compared with 1915.

There appears to be a bright prospect for the sisal industry, as 16 cents was paid per pound for hand-cleaned sisal in the Caicos Islands, which was the first sale in recent years of this product.

Three bales of cotton from these islands were sold at Liverpool at 30 cents per pound, which indicates high quality, and it would appear that cotton growing should be encouraged. (About 10 bales of cotton of the weight of 11,000 pounds have been received at the Government ginnery for the crop of 1917.)

Sponge cultivation at Chalk Sound continues under favorable circumstances, although the sponge industry is at a standstill during the war, owing to the closing of certain markets.

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